

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 24-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled, claims 2, 24 and 25 have been amended and claim 26 has been added. In particular, the features of claim 1 have been incorporated into claims 2 and 24 and claim 26 has been added to recite features similar to claim 25.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3 and 24. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 24 have been amended into independent form.

Claims 1-3, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly not describing an engaging member that rotates independently from the rotatable body in original claim 1. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rotatable-body rotating motor 94 rotates the rotatable body 90 (Fig. 5 and page 47, line 16 - page 48, line 10), whereas the butting-member rotating motor 276 rotates the engaging member (butting member 272) (page 63, line 26 - page 65, line 16). As is apparent from Fig. 12, the two motors 94, 276 are controlled independent of each other by the control device 360. Accordingly, the features of original claim 1 (now in claims 2 and 24) were described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 2 and 24 in order to clarify the claims and to provide antecedent basis for "the taken image." It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi et al. (Eguchi), U.S. Patent No. 4,951,388, has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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